

House Bill No. 219

On behalf of the legislative committee of the Montana Sexual offender Treatment Association, I am here to express our support of this bill which focuses on two of our core values: community safety and prevention of recidivism of sexual offense.

We want to make sure that the restrictions:

- Apply to only truly high-risk sexual offenders. (I shall address concerns particularly related to adolescent and young adult offenders as well as current research that shows "risk" is fluid. It actually decreases over the time as offenders remain offense free in the community. Also, we want to make sure that this bill targets the truly high risk offenders: Tier III's.)
- Be consistent with current research literature on risk. (We wish to not cause harm and by creating more barriers and stressors for offenders: undue barriers to housing and employment. Such stressors increase the risk for recidivism, for any offender).
- Not unintentionally create forces that increase recidivism risk. (Specifically, we have concerns in regards to employment restrictions unless there is language in the bill that supports flexibility in how this is enforced by allowing probation/parole officer specialists to create exceptions when applicable.)
- We fully support a collaborative state-of-the-art community education program that aims to educate the public about sexual abuse prevention. This bill opens the door for such a possibility.

HIGH RISK SEX OFFENDERS

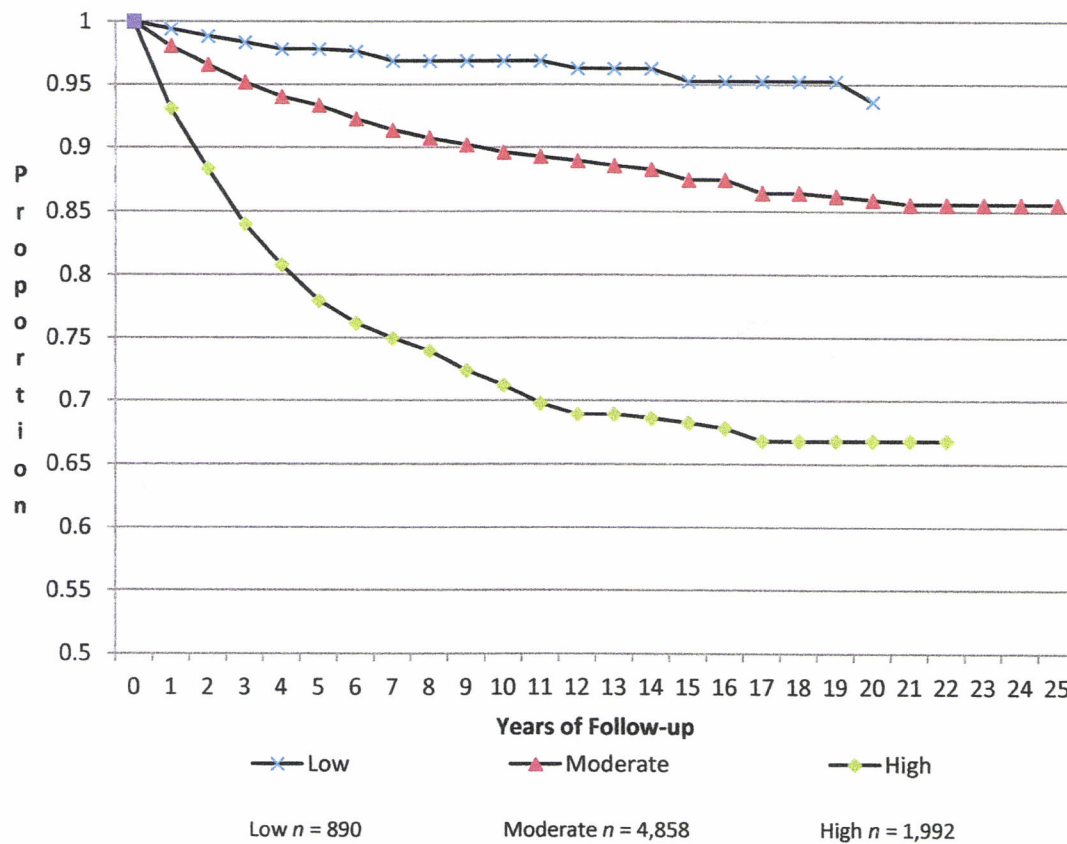


Figure 1. Time to Sexual Recidivism by Risk Level